

**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of customizing a rule-based application, the method comprising:

designating a customizable element of a set as a customizable template by inserting a template modifier before the customizable element in source code for the rule-based application, the customizable element being selected by a first end-user end user;

compiling said customizable element into at least one object to form a ruleset;

parsing said set to detect said customizable element designated as a customizable template;

customizing said customizable element under instruction from a second end user different from the first end user; and

enabling editing of said rule-based application during runtime processing of said ruleset in an environment in which said rule-based application executes.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said set comprises a ruleset.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a variable.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a rule.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said customizable element comprises a ruleset.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising designating a ruleset of said set as a customizable ruleset template.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising generating a customized ruleset from the customizable ruleset template.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling customization in a development environment.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising re-editing a previously generated rule.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a new ruleset is generated from a customizable ruleset template, and a pre-existing customizable rule template is associated with said new ruleset and is unchanged.

14. – 31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method of customizing a rule-based application, the method comprising:

designating a customizable element of a set as a customizable template by inserting a template modifier before the customizable element in source code for the rule-based application, the customizable element being selected by a first ~~end-user~~ end user, where the customizable element is one of: a variable, a rule, or a ruleset;

compiling said customizable element into at least one object to form a ruleset;

parsing said set to detect said customizable element designated as a customizable template;

customizing said customizable element under instruction from a second end user different from the first end user; and

editing said customizable element during runtime processing of said ruleset in an environment in which the rule-based application executes, where said editing comprises generating a new ruleset from a customizable ruleset template, and where a pre-existing customizable rule template is associated with said new ruleset and is unchanged.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the designating comprises:

setting a constraint on valid values for the customizable element.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the valid values comprise a discrete list of one or more valid values.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the valid values comprise a range of values.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said enabling comprises: carrying information about said customizable element along with run-time instantiations of ruleset objects.